REMARKS

In this broadening reissue application, claims 1-23, 28-34, and 40-67 were pending at the time of the Office action [illegible] have previously been cancelled without prejudice. The Examiner allowed claims 1-23, 28-34, 40-58, and 62-67 upon filing a supplemental reissue declaration. Claims 59-61 stand rejected as being anticipated by Cordell. Claims 59 and 61 have been amended and new claims 68 and 69 have been added by this response to place the application in condition for allowance. As discussed below, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Original Patent

The Assignee will surrender the original patent, or will submit a declaration as to loss or inaccessibility of the original patent, after the Examiner allows all of the pending claims.

Oath

The Applicant will file a supplemental reissue declaration upon completion of prosecution and satisfaction of the Examiner's objections and/or rejections to the claims.

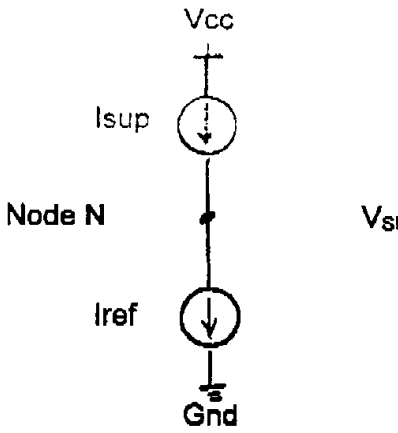
Rejection of Claims 59-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in View of U.S. Patent 4,350,904 to Cordell

Claim 59 as amended recites a method comprising sinking from a node a reference current having a first temperature coefficient; sourcing to the node a current having approximately the first temperature coefficient and being related to a power-supply voltage; and comparing the reference current to the supply-related current. Claim 61 was amended to modify an antecedent basis reference. The attached "Marked Up of the Claims 59 and 61, and New Claims 68 and 69" shows the textual changes to claims 59 and 61.

For example, referring to the illustration sketched below, a reference current Iref having a first temperature coefficient is sunk from a node N and a current Isup having approximately the first temperature coefficient and related to a power-supply voltage

(illustrated as Vcc) is sourced to the node N. The voltage at this node N indicates the magnitude of Iref relative to Isup. By comparing this voltage to a known voltage, one effectively compares Iref to Isup.

The following sketch is a simplification of FIG. 2 of the patent application:



Since Isup is related to the power-supply voltage Vcc, as the power-supply voltage Vcc changes, Isup changes. However, the reference current Iref, which is independent of Vcc, "tries" to stay the same. As a result, the voltage V_{SUM} at node N changes, moving away from (increasing) a reference voltage (illustrated Gnd above) as the power-supply voltage Vcc increases, and moving toward the reference voltage Gnd as the power-supply voltage Vcc decreases.

The currents Isup and Iref have approximately equal temperature coefficients. As a result, the voltage V_{SUM} at node N does not substantially change in response to temperature changes. Because both currents have the same or approximately the same temperature coefficient, the voltage V_{SUM} is independent or approximately independent of temperature. This prevents changes in temperature from altering the value of Vcc at which the inverters 20 and 22 comparator circuit of FIG. 2 cause the switching circuit 8 (FIG. 1) to switch between the primary and secondary power sources 4 and 5, respectively.

Conversely, referring to Cordell's FIG. 1, unlike claim 59, which recites a maximum level of a reference current being independent of a supply voltage used to generate a supply-related current, both of Cordell's currents, I3 and the current (I2 + I3)

through the resistor 40 depend on the voltage (corresponds to the digital supply voltage).

New claim 68 recites sinking only one current and sourcing only one current to a node. Conversely, referring to Cordell's FIG. 1, Cordell discloses sourcing two currents, I2 and I3, to the emitter of transistor 34, and sinking a third current, I2 + I3 from the emitter.

New claim 69 recites sinking from a comparison node a reference current having a first temperature coefficient, sourcing to the comparison node a current that is related to a power-supply voltage and that has approximately the first temperature coefficient; and comparing a voltage on the comparison node to a reference voltage.

Conversely, referring to Cordell's FIG. 1, Cordell does not compare a voltage on the emitter of the transistor 34 to a reference voltage.

CONCLUSION

In addition to the allowed claims 1-23, 28-34, 40-58, and 62-67, the amended claims 59 and 61, and the new claims 68 and 69 are in condition for allowance, making the application in condition for allowance subject to filing a supplemental reissue declaration. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge the $204 for the two additional independent claims, and any additional fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' attorney, Bryan Santarelli, at (425) 455-5575.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Marked-up version of amended and new claims

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS TO BE ENTERED AND NEW CLAIMS 68 AND 69

59. A method, comprising:

sinking from a node generating a reference current having a first temperature coefficient; and

comparing the reference current to a supply-related currentsourcing to the node a current having approximately the first temperature coefficient and being related to a power-supply voltage- that is related to a power supply voltage and that has or has approximately the first temperature coefficient; and

comparing the reference current to the supply-related current.

61. **The method of claim 59 wherein comparing the reference current comprises summing the reference current and the supply-related current at a *the* node to generate a voltage.**

68. A method, comprising:

sinking from a node a reference current having a first temperature coefficient;

sourcing to the node a current that is related to a power-supply voltage and that has approximately the first temperature coefficient; and

neither sourcing nor sinking from the node a current other than the reference and supply-related currents.

69. A method comprising:

sinking from a comparison node a reference current having a first temperature coefficient;

sourcing to the comparison node a current that is related to a power-supply voltage and that has approximately the first temperature coefficient; and

comparing a voltage on the comparison node to a reference voltage.